

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

policant Raimund SCHALLER

Group Art Unit:

1615

Appl. No. : 10/849,036

Examiner

Currently Unassigned

Filed

: May 20, 2004

For : PROPHYLACTIC ARTICLE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents U.S. Patent and Trademark Office 220 20th Street S. Customer Window, Mail Stop Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03 Arlington, VA 22202

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby call to the Examiner's attention the following documents which are cited and discussed in the specification:

EP 0 856 294 B1 which was published on August 8, 2001, which is discussed in the specification including pages 15, 28 and 30, accompanied by U.S. family member US 6,254,947 B1 to Schaller;

US 6,274,154 B1 to Chou, which is discussed in the specification including page 2; and US 4,775,372 to Wilberg, which is discussed in the specification including page 3.

Additionally, Applicants hereby call to the Examiner's attention the following documents:

US 4,464,796 to Heissenberger et al.; and

US 4,143,109 to Stockum;

Additionally, Applicants hereby submit a copy of the Office Action from the Austrian

Patent Office (in German, along with an English translation thereof) that was mailed on March 4, 2004, with respect to counterpart Austrian Patent Application No. A 786/2003, in which the following documents were cited:

DE 201 00 269 U1 which was published on August 16, 2001, which is discussed in the specification including page 3; and

US 4,853,978 to Stockum;

The Examiner is requested to review the Austrian Office Action to ascertain the relevance of the documents indicated by the Austrian Examiner.

Further to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(i), copies of the U.S. patent and U.S. patent application publication are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of the above-noted foreign documents are attached hereto and all of the documents have been listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to the Applicants with the next official communication in the present application.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the present application, and thus no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material. However, if an Office Action on the merits has issued and is crossing this statement in the mail, the undersigned hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fee necessary for the consideration of this statement, including any payment under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 (p) to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted, Raimund SOHALLER

Weil F. Greenblum Reg. No. 28,394 fm 33.69

September 22, 2004 GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1950 Roland Clarke Place Reston, VA 20191 (703) 716-1191

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